

EXHIBIT 17

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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IN RE PORK ANTITRUST LITIGATION No. 0:18-cv-01776-JRT-JFD
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REMOTE VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION
OF
MAPLEVALE FARMS CO.
BY
DOUGLAS NECKERS
Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Reported by:
AYLETTE GONZALEZ, RPR, CLR, CCR
JOB NO. 2022-855147

1 DOUGLAS NECKERS (7/26/22)

2 A. I believe most of these firms
3 listed in the class action are members of
4 UniPro as well.

5 Q. So you mentioned that on
6 occasion UniPro purchases a product and
7 then Maplevale pays UniPro for that
8 product; is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. OWEN: Object to form.

11 Q. And have any of those purchases
12 been for pork products?

13 A. I'm not sure.

14 Q. Does --

15 A. -- the pork program, but I
16 don't believe we participate in it.

17 Q. Does Maplevale have to pay a
18 membership fee for being a member of
19 UniPro?

20 A. We don't -- we don't really pay
21 UniPro anything. They're -- they do have
22 programs set up with manufacturers and may
23 vary from a penny a pound to half a percent
24 or two percent in some cases, non-food, and
25 all that money that would come in based on

1 DOUGLAS NECKERS (7/26/22)
2 a proportion of purchases, 3 to 5 percent
3 goes out to pay for UniPro expenses.

4 Q. Does Maplevale receive any
5 benefits from being a member of UniPro?

6 MR. OWEN: Object to form.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what are those benefits?

9 A. A stronger voice since they're
10 speaking on behalf of 400 distributors, and
11 twice a year buying conferences where we
12 can sit face-to-face with distributors and
13 workout problems in some cases. Maybe
14 there's distribution maybe, the trucks
15 arriving late or something and we can get
16 that adjusted.

17 Some consolidated programs like
18 with Wisconsin cheese. They also can
19 consolidate on some canned goods like
20 Wisconsin vegetables, New York State
21 vegetables.

22 Q. And do you know what other
23 companies are also members of UniPro?

24 MR. OWEN: Object to form.

25 A. The list would be available,

1 DOUGLAS NECKERS (7/26/22)
2 but off the top of my head, I might know 20
3 or 30. Most of the larger independent
4 distributors are members.

5 Q. And are any of Maplevale's
6 competitors also members of UniPro?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR. OWEN: Object to form.

9 Q. And what companies are those?

10 A. Depending on the marketing
11 area, there's probably 20 or 30 who are
12 members of UniPro.

13 Q. Can you name any of those
14 companies?

15 A. I can name some. Hillcrest in
16 Cleveland. CA Curtze in Erie. Batina Food
17 Service in Buffalo. Palmer Food Service in
18 Rochester. There's probably a dozen in
19 like the Pittsburgh area, I don't really
20 know the names. But it's just with
21 everyone going 150 miles, you compete
22 against them somewhere.

23 Q. And earlier you mentioned that
24 being a member of UniPro, one of the
25 benefits is having a stronger voice; is